

Midweek Lenten Vespers #3
St. John 8:42-51
March 11th, 2026
Sts. Peter and Paul Ev. Lutheran Church, UAC
Simpsonville, SC
Pastor Jerald P. Dulas

He Sent Me

In Nomine Iesu!

In the Name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Sermon Text:

“Jesus said unto them, ‘If God were your Father, ye would love Me: for I came forth and am come from God; for neither have I come of Myself, but He sent Me.’”

Prayer in Pulpit before Sermon:

O Lord, send out Thy Light and Thy Truth, let them lead us. O Lord, + open Thou my lips, that my mouth may show forth Thy praise. O Lord, graciously preserve me, lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be rejected. Amen.

Grace, mercy, and peace be to you from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior + Jesus Christ. Amen.

My dear friends, in the Gospel reading for this evening from the Apostle and Evangelist St. John our Lord + Jesus, the Christ, proclaims that He is both God and man. One may miss it if they are not paying attention. For, our Lord says at the beginning of the Gospel pericope that He “came forth and am come from God.” He comes forth from and comes from the Lord God. His coming forth from the Lord God—His proceeding from the Lord God—is a reference to His being begotten of the heavenly Father before the foundations of the world. He coming from the Lord God is a reference to His incarnation. Therefore, our Lord is telling the Jews in this instance that He is both the Lord God and is sent by Him to be the Messiah. He is both begotten of the Lord God, and is sent by the Lord God to take upon Himself our flesh and be born of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

This is Who the Lord + Jesus is. He is both God and man. He is begotten of the Father before all worlds and is born a man of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This is why the Lord + Jesus chastises these (as St. John says about them) “Jews that had believed Him.” They believe Him to be the Messiah, but their understanding of Who and What the Messiah is, is flawed. They imagined the Messiah to be another man. He was to be a man like any other. They could see Him in the flesh, they could see the signs and wonders that He did, they could hear His preaching and believe that what He spoke was the truth, but they lacked one thing in their understanding about the Messiah. The Messiah was not to come and make another great earthly kingdom like unto the days of King David and King Solomon. He came to win an eternal Kingdom in heaven.

This is why it is important for all people who claim to follow the Christ—who claim to believe the Lord + Jesus—not only know and believe that He was a great man, but He is also the Lord God Himself. He was the Lord God from the beginning. The heavenly Father sent Him to be our Redeemer and Savior. He came forth, and am come. He comes to fulfill the Father’s will to bring all people unto Him. The Jews in the Gospel reading did not view the Lord + Jesus properly. They claimed to be children of the heavenly Father. They were “Abraham’s children.” But they cannot claim the Lord God as their Father without acknowledging the Son of the Father. They cannot say that they love the heavenly

Father while hating the One Whom He sent. For they are the same Lord God. This accusation against the Jews (as well as the Muslims) remains today. They cannot claim to be worshiping the true God if they do not worship the Son of the Lord God, the Lord + Jesus, the Christ. For they are the same. Love for the Father is only possible for those who also love the Son of the Father.

Our Lord + Jesus drives this point home even further. For first He drives them out of their relationship to Abraham. Abraham was their father; therefore, they believed themselves to be children of the Lord God. But they cannot be children of the heavenly Father, if they do not also acknowledge the Son that He sent. So, the Lord + Jesus not only drives them away from their father Abraham, but then He drives them away from the Lord God entirely. They are not children of the Lord God, for they are children of the devil. This is how important truth is! This is why it is so important to believe properly concerning the Triune Lord God and the Son of the Lord God. Just as we confess in the Athanasian Creed, "Whosoever will be saved, before all things it is necessary that he hold the true Christian faith...that we worship one God only, in Trinity, and Trinity in Unity, neither confounding the Persons, nor dividing the essence." And also, "Furthermore, it is necessary to everlasting salvation, to believe rightly also in the incarnation of our Lord + Jesus Christ."

That our Lord + Jesus first drives the Jews away from their relationship to Abraham because of their rejection of Him as the Son of the Lord God, and then places them into a relationship with the devil, shows how important being faithful to the truth truly is. It is no small matter for them to acknowledge the Father and yet deny the Son, for They are the same God. To disregard the Son of the Father, removes one from the household of the Father, and makes them of the household of Satan. Because he is the father of lies. The devil hates the truth. To deny the Son, our Lord + Jesus, His rightful Godhead, is the same thing as lying. And if we lie about the Lord + Jesus, we are no longer sons of the heavenly Father, we are children of the devil.

That should serve as a wake-up call to all those who think that truth and doctrine are inconsequential things. For falsehoods regarding the Lord + Jesus are not just minor infractions, they are soul-condemning teachings. They drive a person out of the truth—out of the household of the heavenly Father—into the household where lies are born and bred—into the household of the devil.

This is also why we should cling wholeheartedly to our Lord + Jesus. For in Him is truth and life. His teachings are the Apostles' teachings, and we who remain faithful to that which was handed down to us from the Apostles (as is recorded in the holy Scriptures) also continue to teach the truth. And where the truth of the Lord God is preached and taught there is life. For life cannot come if there is not forgiveness of sins. And forgiveness of sins cannot be ours without the Lord + Jesus. For those who keep the Word of the Lord + Jesus will never see death. He has seen death for us. In Him is life and salvation.

This is why the heavenly Father sent Him. He sent His Only-Begotten Son, His beloved Son, Who was begotten before the foundation of the world, to become a man and in our flesh redeem us from sin and death. For only His death can appease the wrath of the heavenly Father. Our Lord God takes upon Himself His own wrath towards us. He atones for our sins and the sins of the whole world by suffering the punishment that we deserve. Only His life can serve as a ransom for the world. This is why only He can truly call the heavenly Father *My Father*. For all those who transgress the Father's Commandments are not doing the will of the heavenly Father. They are doing the will of the devil. We are of our father the devil because we keep not the Commandments of the heavenly Father.

Therefore, if we hope to be saved from sin and death, we must be in the Christ, and He must be in us. We are clothed with Christ, we are credited with His righteousness, through faith. When we cling in faith to our Lord + Jesus, we are justified before the heavenly Father. When we are justified by faith in the Christ—in the Son of God—we are delivered from the household of the devil, and are brought

into the household of our heavenly Father. This is why, my dear friends, we must ever nurture and strengthen the faith which has been implanted into us by the Holy Ghost. For wherever the Word of the Lord God is taught in its truth and purity, and the Blessed Sacraments are administered according to Christ's institution, there the Holy Ghost is continuing to create and strengthen faith in all those who hear and believe. For "He that is of God heareth the words of God."

Hear then, O Israel, hear O lost sheep of the house of Israel, hear O ye poor, miserable sinners, the Lord + Jesus Who was begotten of the Father before all worlds and was come forth from God, has now come to redeem us from our sins and deliver us from death. For He was sent by the heavenly Father to be our Redeemer and Savior. Forsake the lies of Satan, and cling in faith to the One Who has come to bring us into His eternal Kingdom in heaven, so that we may for all eternity be members of the family of the Triune Lord God. May our heavenly Father grant this unto us all! In the Name of our Lord + Jesus, the Christ. Amen.

Prayer in Pulpit after Sermon:

Almighty God, be pleased to accompany Thy Word with Thy Holy Spirit and grant that Thy Word would increase faith in us; bring into the Way of Truth all such as have erred; turn the hearts of the unrepentant; and for sake of Thy Name grant succor to all heavy hearts and those who are heavy-laden, that they may through the mercy of the Lord + Jesus Christ be relieved and preserved so that they succumb not to the temptation of despair but rather that they gain the victory over the world, the flesh, and the devil; through the same + Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, Who liveth and reigneth with the Thee and the Holy Ghost, ever One God, world without end. Amen.

The Votum:

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds through Christ + Jesus. Amen.

Soli Deo Gloria!